



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

KIT CARSON COUNTY
PO BOX 160
BURLINGTON CO 80807-0160

PH: 719-346-8139 (304)
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Stan Hitchcock,
District 1 Commissioner
Cory Wall,
District 2 Commissioner
David L. Hornung,
District 3 Commissioner

March 31, 2021

The Honorable Jared Polis
Colorado Governor
136 State Capitol Bldg.
Denver, CO 80203-1792
Delivered Via Email: governor.polis@state.co.us

RE: Opposition to Ballot Initiative 16 (PAUSE)

Dear Governor Polis,

As the Board of County Commissioners of Kit Carson County, a traditionally agricultural county with a large percentage of our citizens employed directly or indirectly in livestock production, processing, or sales, we urge you to continue to publicly oppose the enclosed Ballot Initiative 16, titled "Protect Animals from Unnecessary Suffering and Exploitation (PAUSE)." We further request that the Department of Agriculture be directed to act in concert with the professional organizations representing our livestock producers in their efforts to fight this deceptive initiative.

Though approved by the Secretary of State's Title Board for signature collection, this initiative's title is misleading. The actual text of the measure will strike a killing blow to our great state's livestock industry, the provision of veterinary training, and care for all animals. It seeks to redefine sexual abuse of animals in such a way that many accepted veterinary and animal husbandry practices will be criminalized. The result will be unnecessary suffering of livestock animals, beloved pets, and essential service animals.

Additional requirements in the proposed measure regarding great delays prior to humane slaughter will make ranching uneconomical and produce meat of exceedingly low value to consumers. The gains made in export of these products will be lost. The quintessential Colorado ranches that define us will be lost. Our meat packing industry will be dealt a crippling blow. For a state already suffering economically, the proposal will stall any hope of recovery in our rural areas and increase food costs for all Coloradans.

We fully support protecting all animals from abuse and unnecessary suffering. As do all reputable ranchers and livestock processors. Certainly, our veterinary community does. As well as all Colorado citizens, regardless of their dietary choices, whether they be engaged in agriculture, or are simply caring pet owners. The sweeping changes this initiative envisions are more likely to harm both animals and people than they are to protect them.

It has been reported that you agree "with farmers and ranchers that the PAUSE ballot initiative would hurt Colorado and destroy jobs" and insist on behalf of the citizens of Kit Carson County that you act with all the tools at your disposal as Governor to counter this wrongheaded effort. Do not let the good citizens of Colorado be misled by a catchy title.

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Thank you for your consideration,

Kit Carson County Commissioners

David L. Hornung, Chairman

Cory Wall

Stan Hitchcock

CF:

Kate Greenberg, Commissioner,
Colorado Department of Agriculture
Senator Jerry Sonnenberg,
Colorado Senate District 1
Representative Rod Pelton,
Colorado House District 65